

VZCZCXRO5458
PP RUEHBW
DE RUEHUP #0412 1140927
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 230927Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2849
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 0053
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 0021
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0130
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0026
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 0224
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 0001
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0126
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0629
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 0069
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0247
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN 0121
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0432
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 000412

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/NCE MARC NORDBERG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/18/2018

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SUBJECT: HUNGARY LOOKS TO EU TO PRESS RUSSIA ON CREEPING
ANNEXATION

REF: SECSTATE 40673

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Eric Gaudiosi; reason 1.4 (b and d)

¶1. (C) MFA Deputy Russian and Balkans Department Head Istvan Ijgyarto discussed reftel with PolOff on April 21. Ijgyarto commented that the recent Russian "mechanism" initiative was a "two-track" message. First, for the U.S., NATO, and the EU, Kosovo's declaration of independence has consequences. Second, the mechanisms provide a tool for Russia to leverage Georgia into having "second thoughts" about any future invitation for NATO membership. That said, he stated he did not believe that the new Presidential instruction is the start of a certain final separation of the two Georgian regions.

¶2. (C) Asked if Hungary would approach Russia on this issue, Ijgyarto stated that Russia would be dismissive of a unilateral approach by "small" Hungary. He noted Hungary supports the efforts of the EU Troika on this issue and is ready to work within the framework of the EU for further statements, commenting that the international community needs to respond firmly in reaction to this Russian initiative. Closing out the discussion, Ijgyarto said the MFA plans to open an Embassy in Tbilisi later this year, predicated on funding and final Parliamentary approval.
FOLEY